

**In the Specification:**

On page 5, first paragraph (i.e., lines 4-7), please delete that paragraph and replace it with the following paragraph:

Virtual path aggregations are described in further detail in co-pending patent applications, now issued as having United States patents Serial Numbers 6,163,542 08/924,657 and 6,643,293 09/200,444, which were filed on September 5, 1997 and November 27, 1998, respectively, and issued on December 19, 2000, and November 4, 2003, respectively. ~~These applications are, as is the present application, assigned to Newbridge Networks Corporation.~~